

**Maine Farmer.**

HOMAN & BADGER, Publishers.
S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.

Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man.

The Country Cross-Road.

A Midsummer Recollection.

Riding in the country near the middle of one of those midsummer days, when the heat is so oppressive as to be quite stifling, and the slow lassitude of the horses' feet and the slow rolling of the carriage wheels raises the dust from the smooth turnpike, we came to where one of those old-time cross-roads or by-paths, intersect with the main thoroughfare. It was near the foot of a considerable hill, and at its base ran a small brook, in places so narrow one could without difficulty step across it, at others widening out into a shallow, clear pool, and anon forming deep holes beside rocks or at the roots of some decayed tree—the very retreat of the speckled trout. Stretching away to the left, in the direction the cross-road lay, was a large extent of woodland—not the dense old woods we used to find years and years ago, the giant beeches and rock maples and hemlocks—but a second growth woodlot, with a great many young and thirsty and girthy birches, poplars, elms, white maples, and occasional pines and hickories.

To the right was an open expanse of country, broken here and there by slight hills and quiet valleys, which stretched away for miles, and in the distance was a mountain with its bold outline covered with gray rocks and scrubby pines. The cross-road, somehow or other, looked inviting, and after a moment's thought we determined to take a jog along its quiet way. The distance home would be a little farther perhaps, but what of that? Should we not receive enjoyment enough to compensate many fold for the additional distance traveled, and beside, would not the grassy path and wooded hills be a grateful exchange for the heated turnpike across the sandy plain?

And so our faithful, homely old horse was guided into the unfigured-by-road. It was nearly overgrown with grass and braches; the narrow path formed by the horses' feet and the wider paths of the carriage wheels, forming faint lines of indistinct gray which stretched across the plain, and were soon lost to view in the green field—for there was no fence to indicate we were not in reality trespassing upon the back rowing lot of some extensive farmer. A few gray bushes were growing near the road as we went on, and soon we came to a low stretch of ground, where the rank sliders grew to the very wheel-tracks and actually brushed the sides of the carriage in passing. Keeping from this low ground we gained land of a better character. The grass had a heavier growth than that on the plain at the entrance of the cross-road—a sort of feebly, wire grass; the roadsides were covered with a thick growth of bushes, brakes and briars, while above them were the tall and stately blackberry canes—always an indication of strong cultivation and large enough for fishing rods. Gaining deeper upon the handsome young woods at the left, and still having an outlook through the stately trees to the right, when in the far-off distance we could see the rugged old hill—we came at last, by a sudden turn in the road, to one of those quiet, pleasant brooks, half shaded by the trees over which was a rustic bridge covered with poles and beams with a railing formed by a rough pole on either side resting upon forked posts made of small crooked trees. Here was a herd of cows, that had sought the shade of the woods and the refreshing coolness of the wayside brook, from the sultry heat of the July sun. Some were reclining upon the damp ground at the side of the stream, others were standing knee-deep in the water, and others still were slightly submerged and were in demand at paying prices. The same may be said with equal truthfulness of Short-Horns and Ayshires. Particularly will good breeders of the two last named breeds be in demand to meet the prospective wants of associated dairying.

The Decisions of Committees.

The case of which "A Reader" complains—in his judgment partiality on the part of a committee caused the award to be given to an inferior animal—is by no means a solitary one, nor is it confined to any particular society, county or State. The injustice, or partiality, or unfairness, or want of correct judgment, whatever it may be called, on the part of awarding committees at fairs, has been a growing cause for complaint on the part of exhibitors for the past few years, and at some of the State Fairs in the Western States, the awards in several classes of live stock have produced much discussion and comment by the agricultural press, as well as by parties directly interested who have sought the columns of the papers to proclaim their grievances. The master is certainly deserving close thought, and it is one that seriously threatens to break up the usefulness of our agricultural societies unless speedily remedied. Trustees in making up their committees must take more pains to obtain men of good judgment, who will inform themselves upon the particular matter on which they are to pass, and will be present at the exhibition. If committees are to be formed for their companions to join them that they might be away to richer and sweater fanning grounds. The picture was one of the liveliest we ever remember to have seen, and we spent a full half hour in that very spot. What a relief from the heated air and dusty highway, was the grateful shade and cool air of this cross-road through the woods!

How pleasing the vegetable forms about us. The ferns were luxuriating in all their graceful beauty—and of all vegetable forms, what so delicate and interesting—in the congenial soil and atmosphere of the wooded landscape, eight different kinds being counted and gathered. Gaining deeper upon the hedge rows, woods at the left, and still having an outlook through the stately trees to the right, when in the far-off distance we could see the rugged old hill—we came at last, by a sudden turn in the road, to one of those quiet, pleasant brooks, half shaded by the trees over which was a rustic bridge covered with poles and beams with a railing formed by a rough pole on either side resting upon forked posts made of small crooked trees. Here was a herd of cows, that had sought the shade of the woods and the refreshing coolness of the wayside brook, from the sultry heat of the July sun. Some were reclining upon the damp ground at the side of the stream, others were standing knee-deep in the water, and others still were slightly submerged and were in demand at paying prices. The same may be said with equal truthfulness of Short-Horns and Ayshires. Particularly will good breeders of the two last named breeds be in demand to meet the prospective wants of associated dairying.

Cis'ning Names.

Another correspondent has noticed that the name selected by Mr. Cannon for his colt—Strideway—had already been taken by another party, and suggests that Mr. Cannon change the name and publish the correction. We are inclined to attach a good deal of importance to this matter as every reader interested will see that great confusion is liable to occur from having more than one horse bear the same name. We have so many good horses in Maine, and so many are constantly going from our State to make reputations in other places, that this matter of names becomes really of great moment. And it was to bring some order out of the chaos and confusion and contradiction that has heretofore existed upon this matter, that we inaugurated, at the suggestion of a gentleman who recognized its importance, the plan of publishing the names of horses, in our columns. Heretofore a horse has usually changed names every time it has changed owners, and any one who has ever attempted to trace out the pedigree or record of a certain horse through all these changes must have realized how much better it would manifest in stores and oxen. Horses are to a great extent taking the place of oxen on the farm, and the numbers of oxen are to that extent, and for that reason, in addition to the reduction caused by the short hay crop referred to above—being reduced. There is reason to fear, therefore, that we shall not in the future, as has been the case the year past, supply our own people with beef for sale.

Again, the establishment of cheese factories, and the increased interest in dairying which is soon to follow, will create an increased demand for dairy cows. The stock of cows on hand at the present time is very low. Thus we see that the demand for good steers and oxen, heifers and cows, is sure to continue for some time to come, and that we may safely look for paying prices for all that will be sold.

Then, farmers, raise the calves.

They will be wanted. But in urging this we would not report the language of an earnest farmer who was talking upon the subject a few days since—"to raise all the calves." Our entry is, to raise the good calves, and raise no others. There are too many poor calves raised every year. Good calves and good animals grown from calves of this class always bring high prices, and never are plenty. Heretofore there have been altogether too many inferior animals raised and grown to the age of two or three years, and then sold, without any fit to go to market and muscle, to the butcher. This is a race in a different name, within two years, the former name must be given.

We hope by publishing the names of horses of country, broken here and there by slight hills and quiet valleys, which stretched away for miles, and in the distance was a mountain with its bold outline covered with gray rocks and scrubby pines. The cross-road, somehow or other, looked inviting, and after a moment's thought we determined to take a jog along its quiet way. The distance home would be a little farther perhaps, but what of that? Should we not receive enjoyment enough to compensate many fold for the additional distance traveled, and beside, would not the grassy path and wooded hills be a grateful exchange for the heated turnpike across the sandy plain?

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The Controllable Hive.

We have hardly room, in the present crowded state of our columns, for the lengthy article of Mrs. Lizzie E. Cotton, describing her "Controllable Bee-hive," especially as the article in "The Bee-hive," as well as the article in "The Bee-keeper," her main object being to teach the art of raising bees, and that in the future, wishes to compile the history of our bees will have, by consulting our columns, something to guide his researches. It becomes important that no breeder should use a name previously adopted or claimed for another horse; and we think it best, if such coincidences occur, that the one last claiming it, should recognize the right of the prior party to the name. Horses of either sex, if possessing desirable strains of blood, should have their names recorded, and we invite breeders to do the same. Good calves and good animals grown from calves of this class always bring high prices, and never are plenty. Heretofore there have been altogether too many inferior animals raised and grown to the age of two or three years, and then sold, without any fit to go to market and muscle, to the butcher. This is a race in a different name, within two years, the former name must be given.

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Editorial Notes.

We inadvertently wrote Lexington for "Lancaster," when speaking of the attractions at Mr. Lambard's stables, in our last week's issue. Having in mind the old horse Lexington, the sire of Lancaster, probably led us into the error.

We acknowledge the receipt of an egg laid Feb. 16th, by one of the Light Brahma pullets belonging to Mrs. Gilbert, Underwood of Fayette, which weighs 34 ounces.

The leaf and flower said to have been enclosed in the letter from our Wilton correspondent, did not come to hand, hence we are unable to give him any information concerning them.

Where in the new State Pomological Society?

Brother Simpson of Bangor was, we believe, delegated by the committee to procure the act of incorporation, and to call the first meeting.

We sincerely hope the master will not be allowed to fail now that all the preliminary work has been accomplished and the machinery put in running order. The biennial session of the American Pomological Society takes place at Boston, in September next, at our very door as it were, and we deprecate it most essential that Maine should be represented at that meeting.

There are no meetings to be held in the State or New Hampshire, on soil where the standard apple would not succeed, growing and bearing finely. The trees to which I refer are the Duxbury and its varieties, and in what position should they be placed, on the end, or side? If your correspondents will get this variety, which is much larger and longer lived than the Paradise, it will confer a favor.

G. W. B.

West Waterville.

Augusta, Maine, Saturday Morning, March 1, 1873.

Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

How to Breed Good Stock.

A "lover of good stock" asks how to select and breed good stock, and proposes to me to answer his question in full, but will give some of my experience, with a few facts as I understand them; and if not endorsed by stock raisers generally, may elicit discussion.

I am interested with two thoroughbred Jersey cows, nine grade, Durham and Ayrshire cows and four heifers, from the grade cows, by a grade Durham bull. The grades were mostly coarse, but good milkers. I bought a fine Durham bull, and a good Durham bull, Damon 3d. Some of our stock however question the parity of Damon, but I will not discuss that point here. I will simply say that Damon was one of the finest bred bulls I ever had, and that he had a great deal to do with my success. I have had many and good stock raisers get together and discuss the merits of Damon, and I have found that my grade bulls were much more successful than the pure-bred bulls.

I consider Damon a good bull, and I call him a "true-bred" bull, because he is a true-bred bull, and I call him a "grade-bred" bull, because he is a grade-bred bull.

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